

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 021440Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2294

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONSON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 4830

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

REF: THE HAGUE 4288

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT HAS NAMED STATE SECRETARY FOR FINANCE  
ALPHONS VAN DER STEE TO SUCCEED AILING TIEMEN BROUWER AS MINISTER  
FOR AGRICULTURE. VAN DER STEE HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE.  
DUTCH FARM ORGANIZATIONS ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT APPOINTMENT.  
END SUMMARY.

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2. DEN UYL GOVT ENDED LONG AND DIFFICULT SEARCH FOR SUCCESSOR TO

AILING AGRICULTURE MINISTER BROUWER. HE IS STATE SECRETARY FOR FINANCE ALPHONS VAN DER STEE, LIKE BROUWER A MEMBER OF THE CATHOLIC PEOPLES' PARTY (KVP). VAN DER STEE HELD THE SAME FINANCE APPOINTMENT IN PREVIOUS BIESHEUVEL GOVT.

3. VAN DER STEE'S APPOINTMENT TERMINATES ACRIMONIOUS WRANGLE BETWEEN DEN UYL GOVT AND KVP. DEN UYL AND HIS COLLEAGUES PREFERRED MARIUS VAN AMELSVOORT, LEFT WING KVP PARLIAMENTARIAN. THE KVP LEADERSHIP, WHICH WANTED VAN AMELSVOORT TO REMAIN IN SECOND CHAMBER, HAD PROPOSED DR. MATHOT, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, BUT HE PROVED UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CABINET. VAN DER STEE, A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE KVP AND LAWYER BY PROFESSION, WAS COMPROMISE CANDIDATE. HIS APPOINTMENT WAS TERMED "INCREDIBLE" BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DUTCH AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CATHOLIC FARMERS ORGANIZATION SAID THEY WERE READY TO GIVE VAN DER STEE BENEFIT OF DOUBT. PROTESTANT FARMERS ORGANIZATION CHIEF, ZIJLSTRA, SAID HE WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT APPOINTMENT PRIMARILY BECAUSE VAN DER STEE HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL OR EC AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN DEFENDED VAN DER STEE'S APPOINTMENT SAYING HE HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW AGRICULTURE MINISTER DESPITE HIS LACK OF SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT VAN DER STEE, WHO IS A COMPLETE TYRO IN AGRICULTURE, WILL TAKE LINE DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF HIS PREDECESSORS, AND HE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON HIS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON VAN DER STEE WITH PHOTO WAS POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT IN A-111 OF JUNE 6, 1973.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, NL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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